

NEWS NOTES.

We do not necessarily endorse the opinions of our correspondents in the following notes.

Another attempt is being made to foster the growth of a sugar beet in England. The gentleman who has been the champion of the English Press as to the Sudan campaign is really doing a very foolish thing. As a matter of fact the presence of special war correspondents of the type hitherto sent out, at great expense to newspaper proprietors and at great profit to the correspondents, has been the safeguard of the Army against incorrect accounts. And the Press has always shown both discretion and patriotism in publishing reports from the scene of action.

Messrs. Harland and Wolff, of Belfast, built ships during 1897 which combined tonnage amount to 84,240 tons. This is not a bad record for the strike year. At any rate it is believed to be the record output of any single firm in the world. The steamers averaged over 8,000 tons each. Only one was under 1,000 tons. There were three over 10,000 tons, namely, the *Cymric*, 12,340 tons, the *Brasilia*, 11,100 tons, and the *Briton*, 10,248 tons. The *Brasilia* was built for the British Government. The output of the firm for 1896 was 81,900 tons, a sudden leap from the 58,000 tons of 1895.

Mrs. Ayer, the wealthy American lady, who died in Paris a few days ago, was a woman of a remarkable character. Of humble origin, she had excellent manners, was well read, and was a good conversationalist. She was a great favourite in Parisian society, and may be remembered in London, if for nothing else, at least for a remarkable dinner she gave at the Savoy, three years ago. The principal table set the hostess, with the Duc d'Orleans on one hand and the American Minister, Mr. Bayard, on the other. There was a musical table, at which Mrs. Christine Nilsson, Miss Mabel Albertson, Sir Arthur Sullivan, and other notable musicians; while other tables were devoted to the drama, literature, unmarriageable girls, &c. Each table was decorated with special flowers—the musicians' with roses, the unmarriageable girls with white lilies, and the "drama" with yellow asters.

Anybody not accustomed to the amenities of American newspaper warfare will be greatly surprised to find the importance to the *New York Sun* against the *Herald*. The former is stated to have suggested that the latter has received Spanish money in return for a sympathetic attitude towards the Spanish cause. The *Herald* is virtually non-existent, and the *Sun* is doing nothing whatever of the subject, we do not accept the charge for a moment as well-founded. Noting is easier in a country where the law of newspaper libel is virtually non-existent, than in this country. Nothing is harder than to disprove it. In the absence of irrefutable documentary evidence we shall hold the opinion that the charge has no other foundation than the fact that the *Herald's* attitude towards Spain is not explained by ordinary considerations of politics and humanity.

It need not surprise us that there should be some difference of opinion about historical events which happened centuries ago when authorities cannot even agree about things which have happened during the last three months. Every day that paper of Dargal becomes maddeningly correct. First of all his name is a *Mil*, and the *Herald's* papers gave a likeness of a youth so labelled; next he was said to be called *F*ndlater, and another portrait, slightly different in appearance, was published to meet the difficulty. This "made in Germany," but mercifully spared us the portrait. This is confusing enough, but worse remains. The mysterious paper was at first playing something like a double game, and kept the name as "Cock of the North." Now we are told that the notes emanating from his bagpipe were, properly speaking, "The Haughs of Cromdale," the charge of the Gordon cald. Moreover, the paper was first shot through the air, but continued to play while lying on the ground; now we are told that his first serious wound was in the chanter, which, we believe, the part of the bagpipe that the notes come from. That whatever was named *F*ndlater was playing, it is to be feared that the libel of *Southrons* on the bagpipes are justified if even the shooting away of half the chanter does not stop their flood of melody.

Following upon the generous act by which the Queen last year handed over 15 acres of land to Greenwich Park for public use, comes the announcement that the *War Office* is to open a public museum, the grounds of the "Queen's Cottage" are to be utilised in connection with the gardens, and the State rooms at Kensington Palace, with Sir Christopher Wren's famous Banquet Hall, are to be opened to the public. The traditions relating to King Charles II. and the "Queen's Cottage" cannot fail to attract all students of the Georgian era, but the popular mind is more attracted by the more intimate connection of Kensington with the sovereign who now surrenders it during her pleasure. Not only have four of our kings and queens died there, but her Majesty herself, and the case was brought before the Court of Appeals in 1855 her claims were first brought before the notice of the Court of Rome. Several technical faults were found in the application as presented, and the case was dropped for the time being. In 1894 Jeanne's claims were again brought forward, and after some preliminary examination she was declared venerable. But that was only the first stage. The case was then referred back to Orleans, and the Bishop instituted an exhaustive examination into the claims of Miss d'Orleans. This investigation necessitated 133 sittings of the committee. The evidence collected has been forwarded to Rome, and the process is now being "authenticated." When this has been done the official commission known as "The Devil's Advocate" will formulate his objections, to which the representative of the Bishop will reply. Both objections and the rejoinders will then be printed and submitted to a tribunal which has to examine and report as to the technical correctness of the application. After this examination a fresh interchange of objections and replies will take place between "The Devil's Advocate" and the supporters of the would-be saint. The real question as to the saint's claim to recognition is then examined by the theologians connected with the Congregation of Rites. If they approve the case will still have to be deliberated upon by the Cardinals who are members of the Congregation of Rites. The final decision is announced by the Pope in general congregation.

Events have been crowding upon us so quickly late in China and Africa that we have had little time to think of the affairs on the Indian frontier. Sir Bindon Blood, however, seems to be out with his expedition with considerable success. At the very beginning of the present outbreak, it will be remembered, Sir Bindon operated in the neighbourhood of the Malakand, and finished off his duty with but few casualties. The occupation of the Langa Pass seems to have been equally well done, the general pursuing the familiar but very effective tactics of turning the enemy's position instead of rushing it. The consequence was that the loss of life, on our side was far less than on the other. In fact, an enemy's position, only one man on our side was killed. This is the sort of thing we expect in our little frontier wars. We cannot afford, after the fashion of General Grant, to throw away numbers of lives to carry a little loss of life as possible, and the best general is he who most fully realises this fact.

THE MURDER OF MR. TERRISS.

PRINCE AT THE OLD BAILEY.

PRISONER ADJUDGED INSANE.

The final scene in the tragedy which has robbed the English stage of the handsome presence and histrionic ability of Mr. William Terriss was begun at the Old Bailey in dense fog. The court filled rapidly until, when Mr. Justice Channell entered, the place was already heavy with that over-pouring atmosphere, which seems to be met with nowhere else than in a place of trial.

When the name of the prisoner, Richard Archer Prince, was called, he issued from the staircase at the back of the dock in the Inverness cape he has worn on his appearance to answer the charge of murdering William Charles James Lewin, and he settled down with his arms on the rail of the dock.

Asked whether he pleaded "Guilty" or "Not Guilty" the prisoner replied with studied deliberation "Guilty, with great provocation." Then, speaking more quickly, he added: "I have a favour to ask, my lord. I believe I am allowed by the law of this country to have Queen's Counsel to defend me, and to watch over my interests. I insist, if it is the law of England, on having Queen's Counsel. My mother has not a penny of money, pay for my people and it really ought to be paid for by the people who drive me to this. Nothing peculiar had been noted about him. At about 6.30 on the evening of Sunday, December 26th, witness saw him in the smoking-room, and he then seemed to be all right. He was informed of the Lieutenant Miller, of the French Sudan staff, being found in the corner as described. He went into the room himself, and found the deceased with the wound in his head.—Dr. G. E. Haslip, of Northumberland-avenue, said he had been called to the scene at 7.15. He arrived at 7.15. The deceased was sitting in front of the looking-glass when he shot himself. Death was due to a bullet which had entered the skull through the opposite side of the skull to which it had entered. To all appearances the wound had been self-inflicted. There appeared to have been two shots fired. One bullet was found in the head, and the other in the chimney. A letter, identified by Mr. Alfred Edward Fairlie Cunningham being in the deceased's handwriting, was produced. It expressed regret to the hotel authorities for an annoyance and inconvenience he was about to cause them, and requested that his relatives and Lady Cunningham might be communicated with. It also gave directions for the handling over of certain of his personal effects; further, that his body should not be taken to a public mortuary.—The jury returned a verdict of suicide, adding that there was no evidence to show the state of the deceased's mind at the time.

THE PRISONER: If you will allow me, my lord, to do so, I will tell you all about it.

THE JUDGE: Then you will be defended by counsel?

THE PRISONER: Certainly, my lord.

THE JUDGE: That is a plea unknown in law, unless you plead for mercy upon it. I have not taken your plea at present; I was dealing with the question of your being defended by counsel, and have not considered the question of your plea.

THE CLERK OF THE ARRANGS: You must say whether your plea guilty or not guilty.

THE PRISONER: I plead guilty, with the greatest provocation.

THE JUDGE: But you told me you would be defended by counsel?

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A whispered conversation ensued between Mr. Kyd and the prisoner over the rail of the dock, and the upshot was that Prince pleaded "I am advised to plead not guilty, and I plead not guilty."

Mr. Gill at once opened the case for the prosecution. He said the facts were of the simplest character, and practically incapable of dispute. The prisoner had been in the dock under great provocation, but counsel reminded the jury that provocation was no answer to a charge of that kind.

A BARONETS SUICIDE.

CONORONER'S INQUIRY.

With reference to the death of Sir Charles Fairlie Cunningham which was recently announced it appears that Sir Charles committed suicide at a London hotel. The inquest was held a few days later at St. Martin's Town Hall, by Mr. Troutbeck, the Westminster coroner. The evidence given at the enquiry was to the following effect: Mr. Alfred Edward Fairlie Cunningham, of Dawson Hill, Devonshire, identified the body of that of his brother, who he last saw alive about a year ago. He had no idea where the deceased had been living since then. He was parted from his wife, Emily Mary Peacock, chambermaid at the Hotel Victoria, stated that the deceased baronet had resided at the hotel for a week prior to his death. In the evening of December 26th, at about 7 o'clock she heard a noise proceeding from his room. The noise was the slamming of a door. She heard a second noise shortly after the first and a third noise a few seconds later. Calling suspiciously she went to the door and called out, but receiving no answer she entered the room and found the deceased baronet lying on the floor. She opened it with her master key, and in the room saw Sir Charles huddled up in the corner. There was a wound in his head.—Mr. Arthur Guest, manager of the hotel, deposed that the deceased baronet had been noted about him. At about 6.30 on the evening of Sunday, December 26th, witness saw him in the smoking-room, and he then seemed to be all right. He was informed of the Lieutenant Miller, of the French Sudan staff, being found in the corner as described. He went into the room himself, and found the deceased with the wound in his head.—Dr. G. E. Haslip, of Northumberland-avenue, said he had been called to the scene at 7.15. He arrived at 7.15. The deceased was sitting in front of the looking-glass when he shot himself. Death was due to a bullet which had entered the skull through the opposite side of the skull to which it had entered. To all appearances the wound had been self-inflicted. There appeared to have been two shots fired. One bullet was found in the head, and the other in the chimney. A letter, identified by Mr. Alfred Edward Fairlie Cunningham being in the deceased's handwriting, was produced. It expressed regret to the hotel authorities for an annoyance and inconvenience he was about to cause them, and requested that his relatives and Lady Cunningham might be communicated with. It also gave directions for the handling over of certain of his personal effects; further, that his body should not be taken to a public mortuary.—The jury returned a verdict of suicide, adding that there was no evidence to show the state of the deceased's mind at the time.

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Amongst the witnesses for the prosecution were Mr. Thomas Denton, the coroner's inquest, while Mr. Graves, the surveyor, the friend who was with Mr. Terriss at the time when he was struck down, related once more how the deed was done, and the police evidence given previously was read.

Mr. Sands, for the defence, said his case was that at the time the prisoner attacked Mr. Terriss he was not of sound mind, and therefore not responsible for his actions.

Evidence to prove mental weakness was then given, the first witness called being the prisoner's mother, who was extremely deaf. So much difficulty was experienced in understanding the replies she gave to the questions put to her, that she was constrained to shout across the court. "I am up, mother; they can't hear you." A brother (Harry Archer), a little niece (Maggie Manning Archer), and a number of men who had known and worked with the prisoner both on and off the stage, were called to testify to extravagant statements and wild actions. As his niece, who was dressed entirely in black, was leaving the witness-box the prisoner called to shake hands with her. She was prevented, however, when he made a lurch forward and then flung himself back, wringing his hands.

Dr. H. C. Bastian, who had kept the prisoner under observation in Newgate, gave it as his opinion that the prisoner had been of sound mind, and probably had been so for some time. He was led to that opinion because the prisoner was excitable and incoherent in his conversation, and his conduct was such as to excite suspicion and suspicions of persecution. He seemed to think that people had been acting against him, or "blackmailing" him, as he called it, and that these acts emanated from Mr. Terriss.—He did not think that the prisoner had been of sound mind at the time he attacked Mr. Terriss. In cross-examination he added that the prisoner's act appeared to be one of premeditation, but he was quite sure that in the ordinary sense of the word it was not premeditated.

BREACHES OF PROMISE CASES.

"A MATTER OF PRAYER."

At the London Sheriff's Court, before Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell and a jury, the remitted case of Day v. Snook came on for the assessment of damages. It was an action in which the plaintiff, Day, sought to recover from the defendant, Snook, a sum of £250 as damages.—Mr. Mallinson (for the plaintiff) said that the parties first met at Brighton in 1891, but the engagement did not take place until 1892. The first intimation of the breaking off of the engagement was given by the defendant to the plaintiff on the 20th of November. "I really must be set free for at least three months. I feel there is other work for you" (laughter). On another occasion he wrote: "I feel positively that I am not fit to be engaged to you for you to be released. There is, indeed, other work for you" (laughter). Another letter stated: "I offer you £20 if you agree to accept freedom now" (laughter).—Evidence having been taken, the jury assessed the damages at £100.

PANTOMIME ACTRESS AND DRAPER'S ASSISTANT.

Another breach of promise case at the same Court was that of Powell v. Lloyd. The plaintiff, Powell, a 21-year-old girl, brought an action against the defendant, Lloyd, a draper's assistant, living at 10, St. Peter's Church, St. James's, a few days later. The night before the marriage was to take place the curate called at the plaintiff's house, and the defendant, who was staying there, whether he would agree to the marriage was taken place at 10 o'clock instead of 11. That was agreed to, and although the plaintiff arrived at the church the following morning at 10 o'clock, she did not appear. She expended about £20 on her trousseau and other necessary articles. Further than that, the plaintiff had been compelled to give up an important professional engagement at Newport, where she was engaged to sing £250 a week to appear in a pantomime in Milton Boy's pantomime.—Miss Constance Powell, the plaintiff, a tall, prepossessing young lady, subsequently bore out counsel's opening statement. She had not the slightest suspicion that she would be jilted in so cruel a manner.—In summing up the Under-Sheriff described the defendant's conduct as dishonourable and unmanly.—The jury assessed the damages at £75.

BURIED BY CANDLE-LIGHT.

An extraordinary occurrence took place at Esher the other day. A funeral attended the parish churchyard at 4 o'clock, but neither rector nor curate appeared, and after scouring the village five miles to the westward, no one could be found. Meanwhile the mourners remained in the carriage, insisting that the corpse should be met at the entrance of the churchyard in the ordinary way. Everybody shivered with cold, and in order to guide the mourners candles were placed on tombstones and round the grave.

THE BURNLEY TRAGEDY.

At Burnley George W. Howe, a collier, accused of the manslaughter of John Pickett, a surface foreman at the pit which he worked, was committed for trial to the assizes. The only new evidence elicited was that after the prisoner had succeeded in stating that he had killed Jack Pickett, he turned to the officer and said "I had no idea, I would have given him more; I have had it on my crop three weeks. I went for my work back, and I said, 'I'll not get it out of this.'"

FIGHTING IN THE CONGO STATE.

A REBEL VICTORY.

A letter dated from Uvira, on Lake Tanganyika, dated 18th November, received at Brussels, through the Congo Consulate, stated that the rebel Batales had attacked and defeated a detachment of Congo troops on the north of the lake. The commander of the troops was killed. Batales, whose headquarters have been at Lokandu, in Manyema, during the past few months, writes that he has personally taken direction of operations against the rebels.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

General Booth and his staff sailed on Saturday from Southampton for New York.

Two new batteries are to be constructed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the further defence of the city. The work will be commenced in the spring.

The death is announced at Augusta, Georgia, of Mr. Moses P. Handy, who had been appointed United States Commissioner for the Paris Exhibition of 1900.

Forty-three persons were declared by coroners' juries to have died from starvation or to have had their deaths accelerated by privation during the year 1896 in London.

A Leeds master printer named John Henry Kerhaw committed suicide on Saturday by hanging himself in the Oxford-place Wesleyan Chapel.

Henri Mercier, a Frenchman, was sentenced at Folkestone Quarter Sessions on Saturday to four months' hard labour for illegally sending indecent books through the post.

On Saturday evening John Keirby Pickup, the bank policeman who was shot at the Tower, and buried at the hospital from injuries alleged to have been inflicted by George Howe, collier, who gave himself up to the police.

On Saturday afternoon Sir John Brenner, M.P., gave another proof of his manly courage in the North-West Parliamentary division, when he handed the deeds conveying a school containing all modern improvements to the Barton Parish Council.

News reaches the Malay Mail of a grim tragedy at Ratta Panjanj in Perak. A family crushed its wife to death with a block of stone as she lay asleep in the house and then threw her child on to the roof.

An Angers telegram reports that the influenza raging there has attacked a large number of infants throughout the district, and many animals, including some of considerable value, have succumbed.

The Paris *Figaro* publishes, under all reserve, a report that serious trouble broke out at Zella, towards the end of December, but declares that, according to information which has been received quite recently, order has been restored.

On Saturday morning at Horton, London, by the three female inmates having to drop from the window. They were caught by the crowd, and escaped without any serious injury.

A coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter of "Suicide while of unsound mind" in the case of Sidney Harrison, an assistant keeper at the Zoological Gardens, London, who shot himself with a range rifle. The evidence showed that Harrison had first tried to poison himself by swallowing a quantity of carbolic acid.

Sir John Dunne, Chief Constable of Cumberland and Westmorland, has received a beautiful gold cigarette case, ornamented with diamonds, from the Emperor of Russia, in remembrance of his services rendered to the Car and Czarina during their journey through the North of England.

A telegram from Rome states that the British authorities in small arms have resolved not to permit Prince Henry of Orleans to land at Zella, from which port he had intended to begin his next African expedition.

A private letter to the *Rome Tribuna* states that Signor Sacchetti, an Italian banker in Constantinople, who refused to give gratuities to municipal agents, was bastinadoed by the agents, who were assisted by a number of soldiers. Some Italians who saw the outrage went to the rescue of Signor Sacchetti, and a free fight took place in which Signor Sacchetti was wounded. He was also murdered by his assailants.

Seven murderers were executed in the United States on one day recently, including five negroes in the South, of whom three were hanged at Hanville, Louisiana. One of the negroes confessed to having committed 10 murders, among his victims being several Italians.

The number of actions heard in the County courts of England and Wales during the year 1896 was 701,712, and the gross amount of money received to the credit of suitors was £1,695,907. In the City of London Court the actions tried were 16,386, and the amounts paid into court reached £24,490.

Three drowning fatalities are reported at Harlow in Lancashire.

There are 16 cases of typhoid in Harlepool Workhouse, chiefly among children.

At Gateshead, on Monday, Charles Smith, an Aberdeen man, was committed for trial for the murder of his wife.

At Bromley, Kent, on Monday, Alfred Henry, one-legged man, was fined £5 and costs for being drunk and ill-treating a horse.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Stanley Marks, R.A., which occurred at his residence in London, on Sunday.

A numerously-signed petition, containing over 11,000 names, has been forwarded to the Home Secretary, praying for a reduction of the sentence of 10 years passed on the male convict at Northampton Assizes for attempting to seduce a sweetheart.

On Monday the five-year-old daughter of a gentleman named Scarce, Army Surgeon, was playing with a flocking of her playmates in the garden when she was struck by a lightning bolt and killed.

Mr. Thomas Mackenzie has been appointed to the New Zealand Government to be a general manager of the Imperial Institute. Mr. Mackenzie, who is now residing in England, occupied a leading position in the House of Representatives for the district of Clackmannanshire in that colony.

At the Royal Academy on Monday, Sir W. Richmond, R.A., delivered an interesting address on the subject of the "Art of the Future." Sir W. Richmond, Sir John Millais, whom he regarded as one of the three of the truest artists of the century.

The remains of the late Mr. Edward Harbord, for many years secretary of the Association of the Friends of the Bazaar, were buried at the Abney Park Cemetery on Monday in the presence of a large number of mourners.

The Queen has graciously consented to the opening of the Old Palace, at Kew, as a public museum, and to the removal of the remains of the Duke of Wellington, and to the addition of a new wing to the Palace Park.

A disturbance is reported to have occurred in the Mokran district (Beluchistan), where the local tribes have been fighting for some time past. Within territory under the Khan of Khelat's influence, several men being killed.

News has been received at Cape Town from Alwal North that large numbers of Basutos are being sent to the Cape Colony, and that the work is serious. The cause of the present disturbances is the refusal of Masupha to deliver up his son Mooketsi to the authorities, for assault on a girl belonging to the Orange Free State.

News coming from Persia states the disorders which have been reported for some time past in the East are approaching a crisis, and that the position of the Shah is becoming precarious in the extreme.

A meeting, attended by 2,000 women, has been held in Berlin to protest against the methods of the police as exemplified in the recent arrest and treatment of the women of the "Kaiserin" in the Reichstag.

Lecturing at the London Institution on Monday, Mr. F. C. Selous denied that the natives of South Africa were incapable of gratitude and devoid of feelings. If a white man gave a Kaffir rifle, he was grateful, he probably would be. Some people had spoken of Matabeleland as a desert, and that it was well wooded, was a delusion, and decidedly false.

Mr. H. Broadhurst, M.P., is lying at Overstrand, Cromer, rather seriously indisposed. In the course of his public engagements at the end of the year, he contracted a severe cold, and was completely prostrated at Christmas. He has not in all my life made very slight progress, and it will, it is expected, be some weeks before he can resume his public duties.

Gilbert, of Trevelick, Treve, Cornwall, will meet with a serious accident on Monday, while hunting with the Meth Hounds, at Heston Town, the residence of the Hon. H. Burke. The injured gentleman was conveyed to his rooms at home, and was attended immediately by Dr. Sullivan.

At Southam, Warwickshire, on Monday, George Potts, late agent to an insurance company, was committed for trial on several charges of forgery and other offences. He was arrested at a house at Boleston, Spain, some weeks ago, in mistake for a notorious Anarchist, and conveyed to this country subsequently.

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